

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A fire protection zone penetrating member, comprising:

a cylindrical body formed of thermally expanding graphite, thermally expanding rubber, or thermally expanding resin as a main ingredient with one expanding slot provided on the cylindrical body in the longitudinal direction thereof, wherein a V-shaped cut piping inlet section is provided at an entrance of the expanding slot, said cylindrical body having an oval cross section, wherein a metal plate or metal plates are adhered to the entire external peripheral surface of said cylindrical body or to both sides of said expanding slot.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The fire protection zone penetrating member according to claim 1, wherein the piping inlet section is provided at an entrance at one edge section of the expanding slot.

4. (Original) The fire protection zone penetrating member according to claim 1, wherein the piping inlet sections are provided at entrances in both edge sections of the expanding slot.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The fire protection zone penetrating member according to claim [[2]] 1, wherein the piping inlet section is provided at an entrance at one edge section of the expanding slot.

7. (Currently Amended) The fire protection zone penetrating member according to claim [[2]] 1, wherein the piping inlet sections are provided at entrances in both edge sections of the expanding slot.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) A method of injection-molding a fire protection zone penetrating member comprising the steps of:

filling a melted material containing any of thermally expanding graphite, thermally expanding rubber, or thermally expanding resin as a main ingredient thereof in a die for injection molding;

waiting until the material is cooled and solidified to form a fire protection zone penetrating member with one expanding slot formed on the cylindrical body in the longitudinal direction and also with an piping inlet section or piping inlet sections formed at an entrance or entrances of the expanding slot.

10. (Original) The method of injection-molding a fire protection zone penetrating

member according to claim 9 further comprising the steps of:

inserting an metal plate or metal plates inside the die previously; and

performing injection molding to in-mold the metal plate or metal plates on the entire

5 external peripheral surface or on portions of the external peripheral surface of the product.